



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## **India**

### **Agricultural Situation**

### **Monsoon Progress Report - Six 2002**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The drought this year is more widespread than the last serious drought of 1987.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
New Delhi [IN1], IN

Dry weather conditions continued to prevail in most parts of the country during the week ending July 24, further jeopardizing crop production. Only nine of the thirty-six weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall during the week compared with four during the previous week, with the improvement in rainfall situation mostly confined to some eastern and north-eastern states and parts of Maharashtra (Fig. 1). The area weighted rainfall for the entire country was 22 percent below normal at 51 mm. Most parts of the country have been experiencing dry weather conditions for five to six consecutive weeks.

Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 24 was normal or above normal in only 16 of the 36 weather subdivisions with the area weighted rainfall registering a 24 percent decline from normal at 30.1 cm. (Fig. 2).

The drought this year is more widespread than the last serious drought of 1987, when only the north-western states of Gujarat and Rajasthan were largely affected. The major affected states this year are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra - most of them major rice, coarse grain, oilseed and cotton growing states.

Although rice is mostly an irrigated crop in several states, particularly in Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, the crop is still dependent on monsoon rains which replenish ground water reserves and reservoirs required for irrigation and generating electricity. What is hurting the crop more this year are the high temperatures (3 to 4 degree Celsius above normal) which are causing high evapo-transpiration. The lack of rains has resulted in low fertilizer application which also will have a negative impact on yield. Even if the rainfall situation improves from now on, the window of opportunity for planting/replanting of the kharif season rice crop is over, except for some late planted basmati rice in Haryana. The north eastern states like Assam and Bihar, which are also major rice growing states, are experiencing heavy rains and floods, which could also result in some crop loss.

Coarse grain production, particularly bajra (pearl millet) and corn, which are largely non-irrigated crops grown in the north, west and central India, is also likely to be severely affected by poor monsoon rains in the region. Other crops affected by this year's drought in varying degrees are soybeans, cotton, pulses, peanuts, and pulses. Although the peanut growing state of Gujarat received excellent rains in late June, rainfall has been below normal during the past four weeks, which could affect yields. The area planted in soybeans is reported to be down by around 12 percent. Additional rains are needed to salvage the planted crop.

Prime Minister Vajpayee has constituted a special task force, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Advani to deal with the drought situation.

**Figure 1: Rainfall During the Week Ending July 24**

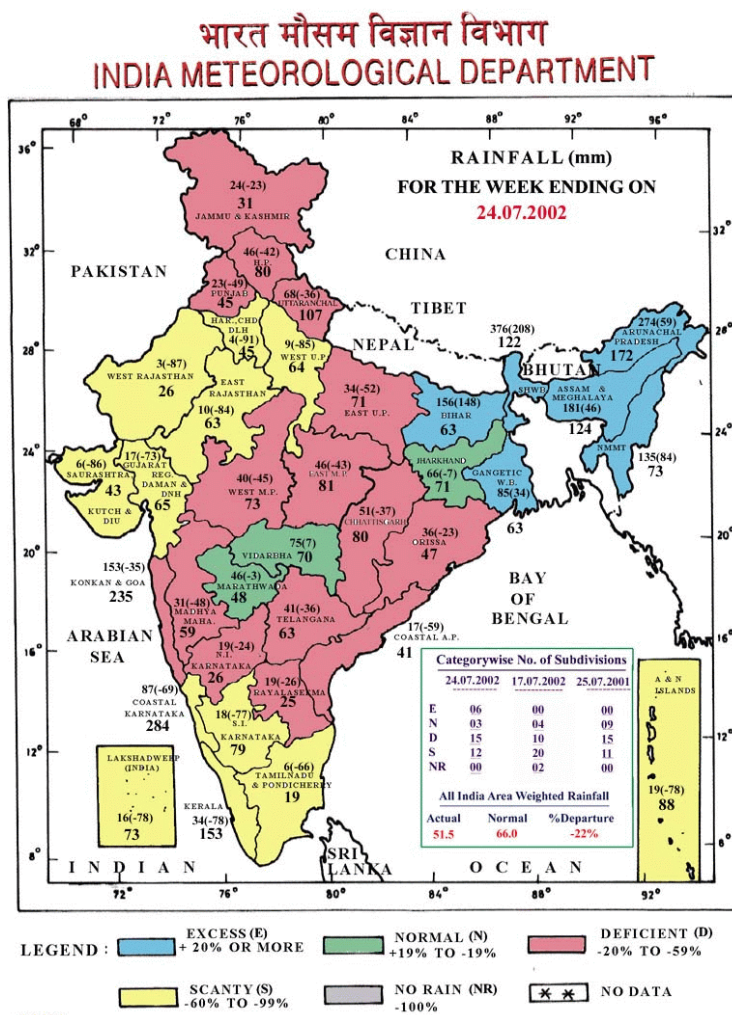


Figure 2: Cumulative Rainfall During June 1 to July 24

